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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., F.R.SAN.I.

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Meacham, Printer, Lichfield

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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

Health Committee:

Alderman F. Williams, *Chairman*

Alderman A. L. Garratt	Councillor S. Clarke
Alderman F. Garratt	Councillor B. A. Garman
Alderman R. J. Nevill	Councillor J. D. Gill
Councillor J. Baker	Councillor A. W. Handford
Councillor C. W. Bridgeman	Councillor W. Richards

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
(Councillor Mrs. C. S. Parker)

Medical Officer of Health:

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN FINERON, D.P.A. F.S.I.A., F.R.San.I.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1951

To the Chairman,
Health Committee,
City of Lichfield.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to present a report on the work of the Health Department of the Council during the year ending 31st December, 1951.

Once again, the position revealed by the vital statistics is a generally satisfactory one. The birth rate, at 15·8 per thousand population, is again lower than in the previous year, but is higher than the figure for England and Wales as a whole. The death rate, at 10·87 per thousand population, is, as in previous years, lower than for the country as a whole. The infant mortality rate, which is a very important index of medical and social welfare, is again, at 52·9 per thousand live births, higher than the national average, though lower than in the previous year. Most of these deaths occurred, however, in the first four weeks of life, and were due to prematurity and other causes difficult to prevent by even the most careful medical and nursing supervision. Once again, it is pleasing to be able to record that no mother died as a result of either pregnancy or child-birth.

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was low throughout the year. After the heavy measles epidemic of the previous year, only 13 cases were notified in 1951. Whooping cough was, however, rather more prevalent than in the previous year. Scarlet fever was almost absent, only one case being notified during the year. No case of poliomyelitis occurred, as contrasted with 14 cases in 1950 and 7 in 1949. On the other side of the picture, 8 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, as against one case in the previous year. A particularly pleasing feature was the reduced number of cases of tuberculosis, 4 cases of respiratory tuberculosis being notified, as compared with 6 in the previous year, and 4 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis again compared favourably with 6 cases in the previous year.

I would like to thank members of the Committee, officers in other Departments of the Council, and the staff of the Health Department, for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. JAMISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Area of City—3,579 acres.

Estimated resident population according to Registrar General—10,760.

Number of inhabited houses—estimated 2,948.

Rateable Value—£64,811.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£256 6s. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	88	76	164
Illegitimate	2	4	6
Total	90	80	170

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population—15·8

Still Births—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	0	1	1
Total	3	3	6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of population—0·5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births—34·05

Deaths from all causes—	Male	Female	Total
	51	66	117

Death Rate per 1,000 of population—10·8

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	5	4	9

All Infants per 1,000 live births—52·9

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—54·9

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—00·00

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0
Deaths from other Maternal causes	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
Deaths from Measles (all ages)...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates of certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1951.

(Provisional Figures).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.	LICHFIELD.
	Rates per 1,000 Population				
BIRTHS					
Live Births ...	15·5	17·3	16·7	17·8	15·8
Still Births ...	0·36	0·45	0·38	0·37	0·55
DEATHS					
All Causes ...	12·5	13·4	12·5	13·1	10·87
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Diphtheria... ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis ...	0·31	0·37	0·31	0·38	0·18
Influenza	0·38	0·36	0·38	0·23	0·55
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0·00	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·00
Pneumonia ...	0·61	0·65	0·63	0·61	0·93
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·00
Paratyphoid Fever	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01	0·00
Meningococcal Infection	0·03	0·04	0·03	0·03	0·00
Scarlet Fever ...	1·11	1·20	1·20	1·10	0·93
Whooping Cough	3·87	3·62	4·00	3·11	6·05
Diphtheria ...	0·02	0·02	0·03	0·01	0·00
Erysipelas... ...	0·14	0·15	0·12	0·15	0·00
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles	14·07	13·93	14·82	14·64	1·20
Pneumonia ...	0·99	1·04	0·96	0·72	0·27
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Acute Polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic ...	0·03	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·00
Non-Paralytic	0·02	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·00
Food Poisoning ...	0·13	0·15	0·08	0·23	0·00
DEATHS	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All Causes under 1 year of age	29·6	33·9	27·6	26·4	52·9
Enteritis and Diarrhœa under 2 years of age...	1·4	1·6	1·0	0·7	—
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10·66	13·77	8·08	14·90	45.4

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality
1949	10,200	17·5	13·7	33·3
1950	10,400	16·2	10·5	65·0
1951	10,760	15·8	10·8	52·9

CAUSE OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	1	0	1
Acute Poliomyelitis...	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	0	0
Cancer	7	16	23
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular disease, angina	10	10	20
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
Other heart disease	5	16	21
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bronchitis	8	1	9
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	12	22
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2
All other accidents	0	2	2
Suicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	51	66	117

INFANT MORTALITY.

Causes of Death	Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year
Haemorrhagic Disease	1	2
Prematurity	3	3
Hydrocephalus and spina bifida ...	1	1
Asphyxia	1	1

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table indicates the prevalence of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, and the number of deaths from these diseases during 1951.

NATURE OF CASE	TOTAL 1950	TOTAL 1951	MALE	FEMALE	AGE DISTRIBUTION	DEATHS
Measles ...	370	13	4	9	0 — 1 ... 1 1 — 5 ... 8 5 — 10 ... 3 10 — 25 ... 1	
Whooping Cough	20	65	33	32	0 — 1 ... 2 1 — 5 ... 50 5 — 9 ... 13	
Pneumonia ...	2	3	1	2	15 — 44 ... 2 45 — 64 ... 1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	4	1	0	1	5 — 9 ... 1	
Erysipelas ...	1	0	0	0		
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	8	0	8	15 — 20 ... 1 21 — 40 ... 7	
Poliomyelitis						
Paralytic ...	8	0	0	0		
Non-Paralytic	6	0	0	0		
Dysentery ...	1	2	1	1	1 — 5 ... 1 50 —60 ... 1	

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease during the year 1951, are set out in the following table :—

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 years ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 30 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 — 35 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 40 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
40 — 45 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 50 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
50 — 55 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55 — 60 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 — 65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	3	3	1	—	1	1	—

In my last report, I remarked that the reductions then shown in the number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis was very satisfactory. I am now glad to record that the number of new cases is again reduced, and that a similar reduction has occured in the number of cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

I am again glad to be able to record that no case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The continued freedom of the city from this dreadful disease is undoubtedly due to the vigorous immunisation campaign carried out in recent years. This campaign is still being pressed vigorously in an effort to ensure that as many children as possible are immunised before the end of the first year of life, and re-immunised at 5 years and at 10 years. In spite of these efforts, only 60% of children under the age of 5 years had been immunised at the end of 1951. The figure for children between the ages of 5 years and 15 years, at 91%, is, however, more satisfactory. It is regrettable, as mentioned in last year's report, that some parents still subject their children to considerable risk by neglecting to have them immunised before the end of their first year.

VACCINATION.

Here again, the picture is not as satisfactory as it should be, as less than 30% of children born are now vaccinated during the first two years of life. In view of the fact that virulent cases of smallpox are certain to occur from time to time in patients recently returned from countries where smallpox is still prevalent, and in view of the fact that vaccination in infancy produces much less reaction than in adult life, it is definitely unwise for parents to neglect this important safeguard of their children's health in later life.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories continue to provide valuable facilities to the Health Department and to general medical practitioners.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Once again, it was unnecessary, during the year, to enforce the removal of any person to an institution, in order to secure proper care and attention.

CLEAN FOOD.

Careful supervision has been exercised during the year over canteens and restaurants located in the city. The Model Food Bye-laws, recently adopted by the City Council, will make this supervision more effective. As in 1950, no case of food-poisoning was notified during the year.

HOUSING.

Although 104 council houses and 11 private houses were completed during the year, the waiting list for houses increased by 153 during the same period.

The continued over-crowding of existing houses again prevented much progress from being made with the demolition of those houses which are unfit for human habitation. The condition of these houses is, however, deteriorating further, year by year, and the need for further action is becoming increasingly urgent.

In addition, the condition of houses generally is becoming progressively worse, due to the fact that continually rising costs of repair have made it impossible for houses to be made in all respects fit for human habitation, at reasonable expense, within the meaning of the Housing Acts.

WATER SUPPLY.

As mentioned in previous years, the water supply of the city is provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Regular routine sampling of water is carried out. All samples reported on during the year have been of satisfactory standard, both chemically and bacteriologically.

SEWAGE WORKS.

(Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor to the City Council, Mr. L. Straw, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E.).

The average daily dry weather flow at the works has now reached approximately 543,673 gallons per day and conditions are giving greater cause for anxiety. The City Council is aware of this and the City Surveyor has been asked to give priority to this work.

A scheme for the reconstruction of the works was prepared before the war, but had to be postponed. The Inquiry was held in 1945, but the Council were not allowed to proceed owing to Housing and other works having priority.

Since that time, the domestic flow has increased and trade wastes have been admitted to the sewers, and in consequence it was considered desirable to amend the original scheme, increasing the capacity and making provision for mechanical sludging, etc.

This work is well in hand and should be re-submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at an early date. It is hoped that approval will not be long delayed and work able to commence in the very near future.

SWIMMING BATHS.

(Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor).

A scheme was prepared during the year and tenders invited for improvements at the Baths comprising a filtration plant and improved dressing accommodation, etc. This was unfortunately turned down by the Ministry, owing to the economic position.

A modified scheme for filtration plant only is being put forward and it is hoped that this will be approved and in operation for next season. This is considered necessary, not only for the pleasure of the bathers, but also on account of public health.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

(Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor).

The disposal of refuse continues very satisfactorilly on the Controlled Tipping system, and it is hoped that by next year a playing pitch will have been reclaimed from a damp low-lying field. The workmen carry out their instructions, and the fears that the area would be infested with vermin, etc., never materialised.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The usual inspections and visits were carried out during the year in connection with the administration of the Public Health and Housing Acts, informal and statutory notices being served in appropriate cases.

BUILDING LICENCES.

During the year, 21 applications were dealt with relating to work in connection with the repair and maintenance of existing houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Careful supervision was again exercised during the year over premises where food is prepared for sale to the public.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream was increased to 27 during the year.

The following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation :—

28 tins Apple Puree
1 tin Apple Juice
2 tins Sliced Apples
1 packet All Bran
19 tins Antipaste
4 tins Apricot Pulp
2 tins Apricots
32 tins Baby Food
46 lbs. 4 oz. Bacon
24 tins Beans
65 tins Beetroot
10 lbs. 14 oz. Butter
5 packets Butter
2 tins Bilberries
72 tins Brisling
144 tins Bloater Paste
1 tin Brawn
12 tins Cherries
44 packets Cheese
1 tin Cheese
2 tins Chicken
2 jars Chutney
46 tins Cooked Ham
1 tin Condensed Milk
1 tin Crab Meat
1 tin Crab Paste
1 tin Crawfish
1 tin Cream
3 packets Corn Flakes
8 tins Cucumber
3 packets Dates
4 tins Damsons

7 tins Delecat
1 tin Figs
10 packets Flour
4 tins Grapefruit
6 jars Greengages
5 tins Grapes
2 cartons Golden Spread
4 tins Gooseberries
28 lbs. 8 oz. Ham
6 tins Herrings
4 tins Lemon Curd
28 tins Jam
60 packets Jellies
32 tins Luncheon Meat
9 tins Marmalade
27 tins Meat
1 tin Mutton and Vegetables
1 tin Mincemeat
1 tin Mustard
75 tins Evaporated Milk
1 sack Oats
2 packets Oats
3 tins Oranges
62 tins Peas
1 jar Pickled Cabbage
2 jars Pickled Cucumber
2 jars Pickles
2 tins Pilchards
1 cwt. Pigs' Feet
2 jars Pears
2 tins Pears
41 tins Plums
2 cases Pickles
4 jars Pickled Gerkins
3 tins Pineapple
2 tins Prunes
2 bottles Plums
1 packet Puffed Wheat
4 tins Rabbit
9 tins Raspberries
2 tins Rhubarb
9 tins Salmon
17 jars Savouree
2 tins Sausage
1 packet Shredded Wheat
21 tins Soup
3 tins Sardines
2 tins Shoulder
10 tins Spaghetti
8 bottles Squash
4 tins Syrup
2 jars Stuffed Olives
5 tins Strawberries
16 tins Swede Turnips
221 tins Tomatoes
2 tins Tomato Paste
2 tins Tomato Juice
87 lbs. Tomatoes
4 cartons Small Articles

Certificates were issued to the traders concerned, after the food had been disposed of by the City Surveyor's Department.